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DCR ACCESS

news

"Integrating People of All Abilities into State Parks"

www.mass.gov/dcr/universal_access

Winter/Spring 2005

Notes from Tom McCarthy, Director U.A.P.

Joining Forces – Save the date, April 27th - 29th, 2005

Photo courtesy of William Ewell



The Universal Access Program is looking forward to hosting an exciting new symposium this spring on Cape Cod that will draw recreation pro-

fessionals from across the northeast. The conference, entitled **"Joining Forces: Collaborative Solutions for Inclusive Recreation,"** will focus on shared efforts to increase the opportunities for inclusive recreation for people of all abilities. There will be opportunities to hear about successful partnerships for inclusion, ways to bolster funding, get some hands-on experience in developing inclusive outdoor recreation programs in addition to other informative workshops and speakers. The conference will be held at the Chatham Bars Inn on Cape Cod.

UAP's Project INSPIRE, funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the the Department of Conservation and Recreation, had great success this year in reaching out to our neighboring

states to share our experience in accessible outdoor recreation. We have collaborated with Connecticut, Vermont and New York in trainings and programs that promise to take the world of outdoor recreation another step closer to everyone who has a desire to experience the outdoors. This coming year, we look forward to working with other New England states to continue this expansion effort that highlights the work that has been done in the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to open the natural world to everyone.



Sled skaters enjoy the ice at Dunn State Park in Gardner. Photo by Maribeth Dawkins

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Winter 2005 Calendar



Indoor Skating Programs

Indoor Ice Skating:

Join us for accessible ice skating programs!

During program time: Instruction and support are provided as needed. Minimal fees for both

rink admission and conventional skates: usually less than \$7 per person, no more than \$15 per family. Fees vary at different rinks. Programs take place during public skating hours.

Indoor Program Schedule:

Date:	Location:	Day:	Time:
January 8	Brockton	Saturday	2-3:50pm
January 9	N. Adams	Sunday	2-4 pm
January 14	Greenfield	Friday	11am-1pm
January 22	Brockton	Saturday	2-3:50pm
January 23	N. Adams	Sunday	2-4pm
February 5	Brockton	Saturday	2-3:50pm
February 6	N. Adams	Sunday	2-4pm
February 11	Greenfield	Friday	11am-1pm
February 19	Brockton	Saturday	2-3:50pm
February 20	N. Adams	Sunday	2-4pm
March 6	Brockton	Sunday	2-3:50pm
March 13	N. Adams	Sunday	2-4pm
March 20	Greenfield	Sunday	2-4pm

Free transportation available for North Berkshire county residents to rink programs in North Adams.

Call TANB at 413-664-0300 and identify yourself as with the "DCR Rec Program."



Inclusive ice skating at the Greenfield Rink. Photo by Marcy Marchello

Ice Sled Locations:

(# of sleds kept on site indicated in parenthesis)

Skate on your own:

Use our sleds at any rink location listed below.

State Parks for Everyone Grant Project

Brockton: *John G. Asiaf Memorial Skating Rink,*
508-583-6804 (6)

New Bedford: *Stephen Hetland Memorial Skating Rink,*
508-999-9051 (2)

Newburyport: *Henry Graf, Jr. Skating Rink,* 978-462-8112 (1)

Project Inspire Grant Project

Greenfield: *Collins-Moylan Memorial Skating Rink,* 413-772-6891 (2)

Holyoke: *Henry J. Fitzpatrick Skating Rink,* 413-532-2929 (2)

North Adams: *Vietnam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink,*
413-662-5112 (5)

Springfield: *Ray Smead Memorial Skating Rink,* 413-632-4310 (2)

Interested in Sled Hockey?

As part of Project INSPIRE, All Out Adventures will be facilitating sled hockey demos in western Mass and outings to attend games in New England. Call 413-527-8980 for a schedule of activities.

Outdoor Recreation Programs:

Join us for winter recreation activities in the great outdoors! Instruction, equipment and assistance provided for free except as indicated.

Please Pre-register!

Pre-registration required. For Great Brook Farm, DAR, and Weston, call Venture into Well-Being at 413-259-0009. For all other programs, call All Out Adventures at 413-527-8980.

State Parks for Everyone Grant Project: Eastern Massachusetts

DCR's State Parks for Everyone Grant Project is a U.S. Department of Education grant in it's third and last year. Collaboration with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind and Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, provides accessible recreation opportunities in eastern Massachusetts. The following programs, plus the Brockton skating program, fall under SPE:

Great Brook Farm State Park, Lowell Rd., Carlisle

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and kicksledding as weather and conditions permit. Hiking and nature walks will take place in the event of no snow. Dairy barn tours on holiday Mondays – come meet the cows! Evening skiing from 5-7pm takes place on the groomed and lit Lantern Trail. Call 617-626-1294 for a recorded message to confirm the program status in the event of inclement weather. Conventional xc skis and limited number of snowshoes also available for rental at Great Brook Ski Touring Center (978-369-7486). Pay trail fee to ski on groomed trails or recreate for free on ungroomed trails.

Outdoor Winter Recreation Programs:

Saturday	January 8	11am-3pm
Monday	January 17	11am-3pm
Thursday	January 20	1pm-7pm
Saturday	January 29	11am-3pm
Saturday	February 5	11am-3pm
Thursday	February 10	1pm-7pm
Saturday	February 19	11am-3pm
Monday	February 21	11am-3pm

Dairy Barn Tours:

Monday	January 17
Monday	February 21



Julia Lockhart ready to sitski. Photo by Marcy Marchello

NEW LOCATION!

Weston Ski Center, Leo J. Martin Memorial Golf Course, Weston

Join us at this new location for Universal Access near Boston where snow is made for a 2-kilometer trail on moderate terrain. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and kicksledding as driving conditions and cold temperatures permit! Call 617-626-1294 for a recorded message to confirm the program status in the event of inclement weather.

Sunday	January 30	11am-3pm
Sunday	February 13	11am-3pm



Cows observe visitors at the Dairy barn.

Project INSPIRE Grant Project: Massachusetts border areas

Initiative for National and State Park Inclusive Recreation Expansion – this is the bold, U.S. DOE-funded endeavor of DCR's Universal Access Program and All Out Adventures currently underway. This grant project is promoting inclusive recreation opportunities in partnering agencies and organizations close to and even across state lines! For more information, contact Bryce Fifield at 413-527-8980. Project INSPIRE programs follow:

NEW OUTDOOR SKATING LOCATION!

Dunn Pond State Park, Rte. 101, Gardner

Check out holiday and night skating in Gardner this winter on Dunn Pond! *A Project INSPIRE program serving southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts.*

Date:	Time:	Activities:
Monday, January 17	11am-3pm	Ice Skating, Sled Hockey, Snowshoeing
Saturday, January 29	6-8pm	Ice Skating, Sled Hockey
Monday, February 21	11am-3pm	Ice Skating, Sled Hockey, Snowshoeing
Saturday, February 26	6-8pm	Ice Skating, Sled Hockey

Blackstone River Heritage State Park,

287 Oak Street, Uxbridge

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing if conditions permit, plus hiking, nature walks and indoor activities.

Call 617-626-1294 for a recorded message to confirm the program status in the event of inclement weather. *A Project INSPIRE program serving Rhode Island, northwest Connecticut and Massachusetts.*

Sunday	January 30	11am-3pm
Sunday	February 20	11am-3pm

Mt. Tom State Reservation, Reservation Rd., Holyoke

Ice skating, sled hockey, snowshoeing and kicksleding as weather and conditions permit. Hiking, nature walks and other activities will take place in the event of no snow or ice. Call 413-545-5758 for a recorded message confirming program status in the event of inclement weather. Serving residents of Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Sunday	January 9	11am-3pm
Sunday	February 13	11am-3pm
Wednesday	February 23	11am-3pm

DAR State Forest, Rte. 112, Goshen

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, kicksleding, ice skating and sled hockey as weather and conditions permit. Hiking and nature walks will take place in the event of no snow or ice.

Call 413-545-5758 for a recorded message confirming program status in the event of inclement weather. *This non-grant funded program is well-located centrally in western Massachusetts at the eastern edge of the Berkshires.*

Sunday	January 9	11am-3pm
Sunday	January 23	11am-3pm
Friday	February 25	11am-3pm

Pittsfield State Forest,

Cascade Street, Pittsfield

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and kicksleding on the Tranquility Trail near the ski lodge as weather and conditions permit. On **January 16 only**, we will be guests of the Berkshire Snow Seekers at their annual chili-bake and snowmobile rides will be offered. Hiking and nature walks may take place in the event of no snow. Free transportation for North Berkshire county residents to programs at Pittsfield State Forest. Call TANB at 413-664-0300 and identify yourself as with the "DCR Rec Program."

This Project INSPIRE program serves residents of eastern New York State and Massachusetts.

Sunday January 16 11am-3pm
(snowmobile rides!)

Sunday February 27 11am-3pm
Sunday March 6 11am-3pm

Wendell State Forest,

Montague Rd., Wendell

Every Saturday: January 8 – March 12

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, kicksleding, ice skating, sled hockey and snowmobile rides as weather and conditions permit. Hiking, nature walks and other activities will take place in the event of no snow or ice. *This Project INSPIRE program serves southern New Hampshire and Vermont as well as Massachusetts.*

January 8	11am – 3pm
January 15	11am – 3pm
January 22	11am – 3pm
January 29	11am – 3pm
February 5	11am – 3pm
February 12	11am – 3pm
February 19	11am – 3pm
February 26	11am – 3pm
March 5	11am – 3pm
March 12	11am – 3pm

Call 413-545-5758 for a recorded message confirming program status in western Massachusetts in the event of inclement weather.



Winter Birding!

Binoculars available if you need them.

Saturday, February 5
Great Falls Discovery

Center, Turners Falls

Cruise for waterfowl and gulls wintering on the Connecticut River in Turners Falls. We will start at the Center and caravan to local spots. Beginner/intermediate level. 1–3 pm.

Saturday February 26 Blue Hills

Reservation, Milton View bird feeders and a marsh from the comfort of a heated visitor center at this beginning level program. 1–2:30 pm.

Maple Sugar Days,

Blue Hill State Reservation, Milton
March 12 -13

Learn more about maple sugaring and sample some early spring sweetness at Brookwood Farm in Milton from 10am to 4pm both days. Please call Maggi at 617-727-4573 (voice mail 213) regarding site accessibility.

Spring Calendar

Mark These Dates!

Inclusive Recreation Symposium on Cape Cod, April 27-29

You are invited to join DCR and All Out Adventures in Chatham, MA at “Joining Forces – Collaborative Partnerships for Inclusive Recreation!” For park and recreation professionals, as well as anyone with an interest, the symposium will feature experiential workshops on kayaking, cycling, hiking, bird watching and nature programs, as well as field trips to area parks. For more information and to register, contact All Out Adventures at 413-527-8980.

Spring Bird Watching Programs

Through Project INSPIRE and the partnerships with nature centers and bird clubs, bird watching is becoming more universally accessible! Join us this spring at an open house and find out more about accessible bird-watching techniques and opportunities! For further information and to get on a bird-watching contact list, call 413-545-5758.

Accessible Bird watching Open Houses:

Saturday, April 16

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turner’s Falls, MA

Saturday, May 14

Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center, Worcester, MA

Sunday, June 5 Mt. Greylock Visitor Center, Lanesboro, MA

Program Locations





Annual Spring Cycling Fair

The 8th annual Accessible Cycling

Fair will take place for the second year in a row at Robinson State Park in Agawam, Massachusetts. This Project INSPIRE event is situated near the Connecticut border to serve residents from both states.

Join us Saturday, May 7th from 11am – 4pm, rain or shine! Come check out a wide variety of accessible bicycles and other wheeled devices at this popular spring event.

Interested in Orienteering? Geo caching? Letter boxing?

Don't know what these are? Come learn how to navigate outdoors using map and compass and other orienteering tools to search for items hidden in the landscape. Project INSPIRE will be offering inclusive orienteering activities this spring! For further information call Bryce Fifield at 413-527-8980.

The Universal Access Program is part of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
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A passenger sleigh provides more space for rides and snowmobiling fun. Photo by Maribeth Dawkins.